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W E D N E S D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

+ Security Council sets up Committee on sanctions against Libya and elects Hungarian Permanent Representative to the United Nations as its Chairman; Committee to hold first meeting tomorrow.

+ Secretary-General holds talks with Foreign Minister of China and other Government officials in Beijing; tells a press conference of "positive discussions" on new United Nations role in peace-keeping, peacemaking and preventive diplomacy.

+ Narcotic Drugs Commission concludes 35th session in Vienna placing 10 new substances under international control, among other things.

+ Iraq says surveillance flights carried out by Special Commission on Iraqi Disarmament are "dangerous" at a time when they might be mistaken for hostile action by Iranian Air Force in Iraqi airspace.

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The Security Council met this morning in a closed meeting to establish the Committee to handle all issues relating to the implementation of the sanctions against Libya, imposed as of today by Council resolution 748 (1992) of 31 March. The Council elected as Chairman of the Committee on sanctions the Hungarian Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador André Erdos. The Committee, which is made up of the 15 members of the Security Council, is scheduled to hold its first substantive meeting tomorrow.

The Council decided under resolution 748 that all member States must notify the Committee by 15 May of the measures they intend to take to fulfil the requirements of the mandatory sanctions. The Committee will gather information from States regarding action taken by them concerning the sanctions and consider applications from States for flights to and from Libya for humanitarian purposes.

The Council had set a 15 April deadline for Libya to comply with resolution 731 (1992) requesting its cooperation in establishing responsibility for the downing of Pam Am flight 103 and UTA flight 772. The

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sanctions, which went into effect at midnight, include an air and arms embargo, as well as limitations on diplomatic staff at Libyan diplomatic missions and consular posts abroad.

The French Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Jean-Bernard Merimée, told correspondents this morning that his Government had decided to expel six diplomats -- about one-third of the Libyan diplomatic and consulate agents in France.

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Following his talks today in Beijing with the General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party Jiang Zemin and Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali told a press conference that his talks with the Chinese leaders had focused on social and economic issues and cooperation.

He praised the strong support China was giving to the Security Council on regional issues and stressed the positive discussions he had held with the Chinese officials on the United Nations new role in the field of peace-keeping, peacemaking and preventive diplomacy. He emphasized the importance of the 48th session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), which opened yesterday in the Chinese capital, noting its significance in promoting cooperation in the region.

Asked about the Libyan situation, the Secretary-General said he would continue his diplomatic activities to help find a peaceful solution.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali is scheduled to leave China for Cambodia on 17 April. He will then visit Thailand and India, before returning to New York on 23 April.

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The Commission on Narcotic Drugs concluded today in Vienna its 35th session after adopting a number of proposals to the Economic and Social Council. During its 10-day session, the Commission placed 10 new substances under international control.

In particular, the Commission recommended that the Council urge States that export chemicals essential to the manufacture of heroin and cocaine to find ways to detect and prevent their illicit diversion and trafficking. It also adopted a draft resolution which identified a series of measures to prevent the diversion of precursor and essential chemicals.

The Commission adopted a proposal on a debt for development swap. But following the adoption, a number of delegations called for a reconsideration of the draft. The motion was defeated by a vote of 15 in favour to 19 against with 6 abstentions.

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Among other drafts adopted by the Commission, one on illicit traffic at sea calls on all States to cooperate in apprehending illicit traffickers on the high seas and to keep accurate records of vessels. It also invited Member States to make every effort to bring their national legislations into conformity with the provisions of the 1988 Convention. Member States were invited to consider contributing forfeited property or proceeds from illict traffic in narcotic drugs to the Fund of the Drug Control Programme for the fulfilment of its International Drug Control mandate. Full cooperation and support in coordinating and implementing the United Nations Decade against Drug abuse (1991 -2000) was also called for.

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Iraq has said that surveillance flights carried out by the Special Commission on Iraqi Disarmament were "dangerous" at a time when they might be mistaken for hostile action by the Iranian Air Force in Iraqi airspace.

In a letter to the President of the Security Council dated 12 April, Iraqi Minister for Foreign Affairs Ahmad Hussein said Iraq "did not intend to carry out any military operation" against surveillance aircraft as reported by the Special Commission on Iraqi Disarmament. He said the purpose of a letter given to the Commission Chairman, during a meeting on 9 April, was to draw attention to the dangers to which the surveillance aircraft of the United Nations inspection teams might be exposed by reason of the recent hostile action of the Iranian Air Force and the Iraqi counter-action.

The Executive Chairman of the Special Commission, Rolf Ekeus, had informed the Security Council of recent developments which appeared to constitute a threat to the safety of the inspection flights carried out by the Commission. The Council reacted by issuing a Presidential statement on Friday 10 April warning the Government of Iraq of the serious consequences which would ensue if Iraq did not comply with its obligations to ensure the Special Commission its right to conduct aerial surveillance flights.

Teri Trevane of the Special Commission told correspondents, at a press briefing at Headquarters last week, that the surveillance planes bore United Nations markings; were registered under United Nations terms, and that the pilots had United Nations certification. He said the frequency of the surveillance flights -- currently 2 per week -- might increase, once the Special Commission began its long-term monitoring activities in Iraq.

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